

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 17, 2010

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Chairman Genachowski:

We write to express our concern about any further efforts to delay the Commission's review of the proposed transaction between Comcast and General Electric to form a new NBC Universal (NBCU).

This joint venture will combine the efforts of a leading communications company and an iconic content creation company to respond to rapid technological developments, market dynamics, and changing consumer demands. We believe the companies' many voluntary commitments to strengthen broadcasting, invest in innovative programming, and deliver a multiplatform video experience for consumers should compel the Commission to conclude that this transaction, without additional conditions, furthers the public interest and should be approved.

We also would like to commend you for the deliberate way in which you have tried to conduct your agency's review of the transaction. Considering the continued fragility of the national economy and the importance of giving the business community the certainty it needs to proceed with investment, it is imperative that the Commission's review process maintains the highest standard of substantive and procedural integrity and signals to the markets that American businesses will be treated fairly by Federal regulatory authorities.

Between your efforts and those of the Congress, the Comcast-NBCU joint venture is undergoing extensive scrutiny and the public has had unparalleled opportunities for participation. Four congressional committees have held nearly 20 hours of public hearings since February to hear from a wide range of witnesses on all aspects of the joint venture. The parties have answered well over 100 congressional questions for the record to the committees and the Commission. And while the Commission originally provided 45 days for initial comments and petitions to deny, with an additional 30 days for responses and an additional 15 days for replies to responses—the longest formal pleading cycle it has ever set for any similar transaction—the Media Bureau granted an additional 45 days for public comment.

We are disappointed that, despite five congressional hearings and the Commission's extraordinary step of holding a seven-hour public forum in Chicago on July 13th, certain opponents of the transaction are continuing to ask for additional steps to delay and complicate the process. We note that never in the history of the FCC's review of media or telecommunications transactions has the agency conducted even one hearing in this fashion.

We urge you to reject future dilatory requests, and to make clear that you will focus on the legal and economic analyses that are relevant to your public interest review.


You have consistently rejected efforts to politicize the review of the merits of this transaction. We urge you to continue to resist these demands, because the delays that they are intended to create will hurt consumers, workers, and competition. We recommend that you hold assiduously to the FCC's 180-day transaction clock and reject any further efforts to stop the clock.


This transaction presents opportunities that will launch the communications, information and technology industry into a new era of competition, creativity, and innovation. The Commission should act on this pro-consumer, pro-competition transaction without delay. The longer the Commission takes to act on this joint venture, the longer current and potentially new and innovative jobs remain in limbo.

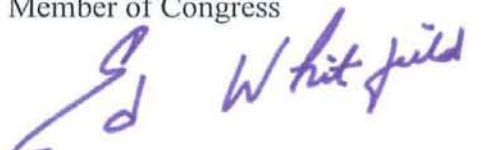
Sincerely,

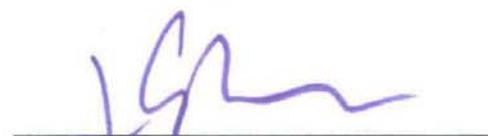

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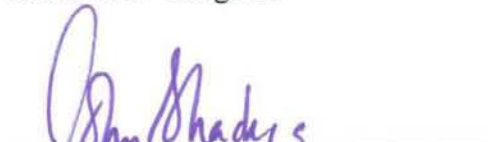

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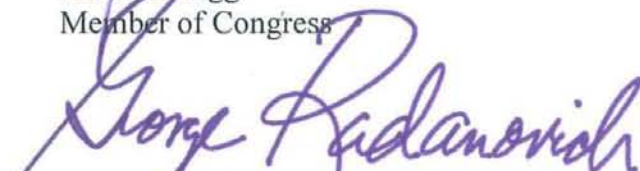

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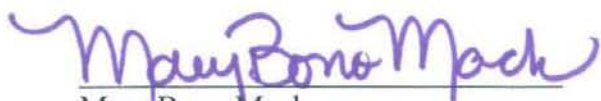

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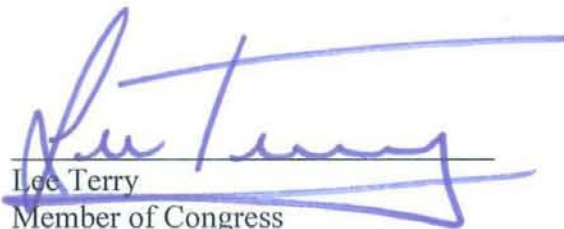

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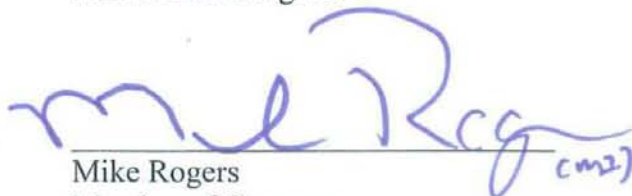

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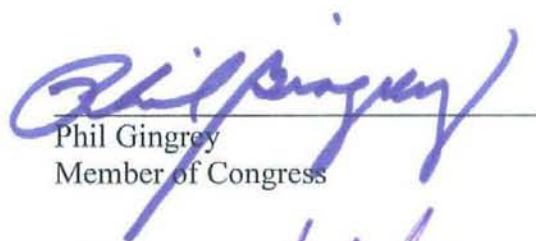
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